



STORY RELEASE



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2CR Troops, Family Members hold pinewood derby for local cub scouts

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ROSE BARRACKS, Germany – A block of wood, four plastic wheels and nails might be the recipe for great family fun and entertainment, as well as, a bonding experience between children and parents that can be cherished for years.

The Vilseck Elementary School played host to this year's pinewood derby race for Cub Scout Pack #240 Feb. 23, here at Rose Barracks. The event was organized by the Silver Bayern Chapter of the Warrant Officers Association and Troops and Family Members of 2nd Cavalry Regiment.

The pinewood derby is an annual event held for cub scouts where members within the local community come together to organize and fund the race of wooden cars. The cars are created by the scouts, normally out of a block of wood, wheels and nails. The cars are then placed on a inclined-slope track and raced gravitationally.

Six years after the foundation of the Boy Scouts of America, Robert Baden-Powell, a former Lt. Gen. with the British Army, established a scouting movement known as Wolf Cubs for young boys between the ages of seven and 11 who were not yet at the age required to join the boy scouts. Now known as cub scouts, the organization teaches young boys values through character building, physical fitness, practical skills and service. Compassion, cooperation, courage, honesty and perseverance are some of the ethics and principles cub scouts bring to the boys.

The cub scouts is volunteer-based and requires time and dedication from many committed adults within the local community where each pack resides. It is a way to bring people together and inspire relationships between parents and children.

The first pinewood derby race, organized by Cub Master Don Murphy, was held in 1953 at Manhattan Beach, Calif., and has since become an annual event with cub scout packs nationwide.

Master Sgt. Christian Kiechler with Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 3rd Squadron, 2CR is the cub master for Pack #240 based in Vilseck. Kiechler expressed how the building of the cars and the race helps the children.

“As the kids get older they are more involved with building and designing their own cars so it kind of gives them that self-confidence,” said Kiechler. “When it comes to race-time its a lot about sportsmanship.”

The cub scout organization’s ability to maintain its existence relies on volunteers. Parents and other adults within the community come together to organize events for the group and possibly provide some funding as well. The pine wood derby is another way to show the children unique values and helps with parent and child relationships.

“It’s a healthy competition for boys,” said Danielle Kiechler, a volunteer with Pack #240 and native of Incline Village, Nevada. “They have to build their own car with an adult and it brings parent and child closer together. Without volunteers we wouldn’t have an organization. This is all strictly volunteer and it teaches kids good morals and values. It helps the community and if you don’t have volunteers, a lot of programs go away.”

In order to include parents and siblings of the scouts participating in the race, Pack #240 included two additional categories for those who wished to participate as well. This was also a way to get everyone involved.

“One of the things we do in addition with this pack is we do what’s called a sibling race because a lot of little bothers and sisters have a lot of fun making the cars too,” said Master Sgt. Kiechler. “As of last year we started doing a parent race because parents kind of get into it too, so we let them have a separate bracket.”

The Silver Bayern Chapter of the U.S. Army Warrant Officers Association were among those who attended the event. The chapter contributed funding and prizes for the event, as well as, volunteering as a “pit crew” at the race where they fixed cars that broke during the event.

“We wanted to recognize the coolest car because not everyone gets a trophy and the kids put in a lot of effort and creativity,” said Warrant Officer Jonathan Gibson, Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 2nd Cavalry Regiment and native of Morristown, Tenn. “Sometimes the coolest car isn’t the fastest. We just wanted to award someone who put in the time and effort to make a cool car. The values the boy scouts represent directly impacts the community. The Warrant Officers Association is offsetting the cost and today we contributed \$400.”

This year’s pine wood derby first place winner was Jakeb Kiechler, son Master Sgt. Kiechler.. He was presented with a trophy filled with candy for his car being the fastest of the day. The second and third place winners also received trophies. Jakeb expressed how he wanted to celebrate his victory.

“I want to go to the commissary, get lots of candy and go back to my house and eat it,” said Jakeb.